1608/5261

GERMAN MERCY;

A

FAIR WARNING

TO THE

PEOPLE

OF

GREAT-BRITAIN.

——Then (ſad Relief!) from the bleak Coaſt that bears
The GERMAN Ocean roar, the SAXON came.
He came employ'd, but came with other Aim
Than to protect. The Arm that could Defend,
Cou'd Conquer too; and ſoon their dread Allies
The wretched BRITONS ſerv'd.——Who can't maintain,
Deſerve not to poſſeſs.——

THOMSON's Liberty, p. 3.

Inexpugnabile munimentum Amor Civium.

SENECA ad NERONEM.

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M.DCC.LVI.

1608/5261

GERMAN MERCY, &c.

ALthough this may be ſaid to be the golden Age in *Britain*, where Virtue, triumphantly enthroned, diſplays her Graces over all the Land, effectually influencing all Degrees of People to a ſtrict Obſervance of her Dictates: The great and noble to be ſhining Examples of true Religion and Piety, Charity and Hoſpitality, ever watchful over the great Affairs of the State, and couragiouſly guiding its Helm with admirable Foreſight, Steadineſs, Integrity and Underſtanding;——— The Clergy to be truly Orthodox, conſtantly and zealouſly labouring in the Vineyard of their Maſter, regardleſs of all temporal and worldly Views;——— The Magiſtrates to be active and vigilant in their reſpective Stations, diſtributing of equal and impartial Juſtice, protecting the Rich in their Properties, and the Poor from Oppreſſion, ſeeing that the Laws be every where duly executed, and always paying the ſame Regard to the Rights and Liberties of the Subject, as to the Prerogatives and Powers of the Crown;——— and laſtly, the Commonalty with the Love of Honeſty, Truth and Juſtice, heartily endeavouring to do all the Good they can to their Neighbours in particular, and to their Country in general, and to be at all Times and in all Places beyond the Reach of Venality and Corruption.

Although this ſhould be allowed to be the happy State of our Country at preſent; yet as all Things in this Region of Uncertainty are liable to Change, we don't know how ſoon the Caſe may be altered with us, and from a wiſe, virtuous and good People, we may become a weak, abandoned, cruel, venal and corrupt Set of time-ſerving Sycophants and Profligates, proſtituting our Voices on all Occaſions to the higheſt Bidder, not reſpecting Right or Wrong, Truth or Juſtice.

Whenever this ſhall be the Caſe, what will become of our wiſe and happy Conſtitution, our Laws, Rights and Liberties, is not very difficult to conceive; the Bandage of which, being Religion and Virtue, when they are taken

away, the Conſtitution muſt fall to Pieces, and remain in the utmoſt Anarchy and Confuſion.

Therefore it is incumbent upon every Subject of this Realm, to exert himſelf to the utmoſt of his Ability in preſerving ſo glorious a Conſtitution, and upon all Occaſions to promote its welfare; and alſo ſhould he, whenever he ſees any Danger impending, or approaching towards it, altho' but at a Diſtance, immediately ſound the Alarm for Aſſiſtance to prevent its taking Effect.

That Man is a very bad Member of Society, who lets ſlip any one Opportunity of honeſtly ſerving that Body to which he belongs; but more ſo, if he ſees any Evil hovering over, and ready to fall on its Head, without endeavouring to prevent or ward off the Blow, and horribly wicked, if he ſacrifices its Intereſt to the curſed Mammon of Unrighteouſneſs or his own private Emolument.

Not that I ſay there are many Inſtances, in this Age of exalted Virtue, of ſuch abandoned Wretches, eſpecially the latter Sort, to be met with; yet, as I fancy there may be found a few, that having wriggled themſelves into Places of Truſt and Confidence, by Hypocriſy and Deceit, will be ready upon all Occaſions, to receive the wages of Sin, and join in the Ruin of the beſt of Governments; and, as Luxury, that Bane of Civil Society, ſeems to be getting footing amongſt us, which, like a Canker in the natural Body, preying upon the Members of the Body Politick, will ſo weaken and waſte our Conſtitution, if not timely prevented, as to make it ſuſceptible of all thoſe Evils which are the conſtant Attendants of that all-devouring Demon. The firſt of which, is Neceſſity; and ſhe is the Mother of that two-headed Monſter Bribery and Corruption, a fit and direful Weapon, in the Hands of a wicked and diabolical Miniſter, to cut down and deſtroy all the Fences of Liberty, and thereby lay our free and wiſely conſtituted Government open to the helliſh Attacks of abſolute Tyranny, and ſubject the poor People of this Land to all the Miſeries attending Poverty and Slavery.

Good God! can any Thing be ſo monſtrouſly wicked, as to prevail upon the People to ſell themſelves and their Poſterity for ever, to the Minions of Power, for trifling Sums out of the common Stock of the Nation, in which every

every Subject will have a Share? It being before collected of the whole Body of the People, by virtue of various Kinds of Taxations for the publick Service. And can there be any Thing ſo extremely weak and mean, as a People that will ſuffer themſelves to be bribed and chouſed, with their own Money, out of every Thing that is dear and valuable to them as Freemen and as *Engliſhmen*?

If ever this ſhould be the Caſe, *Britain* may then be truly ſaid to be undone; and may expect to have foreign Armies in her Bowels waſting her Wealth, deflowering her Daughters, and ſubjecting her to that Yoke, which her Sons ſo ignominiouſly brought upon themſelves and her.

Therefore, I ſay, as ſome Symptoms begin to appear, which may bring on theſe ever to be dreaded Evils, it behoves every Subject, as a Member of the great Society of the Kingdom, arduouſly to endeavour to put a Stop to them in their firſt Stage, and prevent their taking Root, by every Method our excellent Conſtitution has put into his Hands.——Not tamely looking on, and ſighing at the impending Danger, hoping that ſome other Perſons will undertake the great Buſineſs of Reformation:———No, as it is the Duty and great Concern of every Man, let every one in his Station ſet about the glorious Work, and endeavour to promote it at all Times, and in all Places as much as in him lies; every where diſcountenancing Luxury and its concomitant Vices, and heartily join in bringing to condign Puniſhment, all Delinquents, that have at any Time endeavoured to ſap and undermine our Conſtitution by any Method whatſoever.

Surely Example muſt have Weight——Let us look into the Hiſtories of former ages, and we ſhall ſee what Havock Luxury has made in the greateſt States and Empires:—— *Athens* and *Rome* became her Victims, as did moſt of the ancient Governments of the World——Not even, the beſt conſtituted could withſtand her Force, if once ſuffered to inhabit its Territories, which, like a Snake lurking in the Boſom of Man, ſhe often does, before ſhe is diſcovered; but as ſoon as perceived, the dire Effects are obvious and glaring, as is the Venom of that obnoxious Animal, which, immediately after the Bite is

given,

given, ſhoots like Lightning through the whole Maſs of Blood.

Oh, my Fellow-citizens, beware! let Example teach us to beware! Let us ſearch the Annals of *Britain*, and they will teach us not to cheriſh this inſinuating Reptile in the Boſom of our Country, leſt her Poiſon bring on thoſe abominable Diſeaſes, which once overturned and deſtroyed this whole Kingdom, and made it an eaſy Prey to heatheniſh and mercileſs Foreigners, the poor People being every where butchered, without Reſpect of Perſon, Age, or Sex, not regarding the Cries of widowed Matrons, or their innocent Progeny, their Lands and Properties ſeized, their Churches, which were built for the Reception of the Saviour of the World, and the Worſhip of the True God, profaned and turned into Pagan Temples, for the Habitation of Idols, and the idolatrous Adoration and Worſhip of falſe Gods; and the remaining few Inhabitants that preſerved their Integrity, diſdaining to ſubmit to the galling Yoke of Slavery, were obliged to retire into a Corner of the Land, where they are a diſtinct People to this Day, to dwell, and enjoy their Freedom amongſt barren Rocks and Mountains, whilſt the cruel Invaders, their once pretended Friends, lived in the fruitful Valleys and fat Paſtures of *Britain*.

This was the Fate of the poor *Britons*, which they brought upon themſelves by their great Wickedneſs, and unaccountable Neglect of National Affairs; for whilſt they were living luxuriouſly at Home upon that great Plenty which God had beſtowed upon them, they ſuffered themſelves to be gulled out of their Rights and Privileges, and their Laws, the chief Security of the State, to be trampled under Foot by their atrocious and deſigning Leaders; who, in order to effect their wicked Purpoſes of attaining Power and Greatneſs, cajoled the States of the Kingdom, by Places, Bribes, Penſions, and other miniſterial Baits, into an Agreement of chuſing for their King, a Prince in all Reſpects unfit for ſo great a Truſt. King *Vortigern* indeed had large Extent of Dominion, and he had Riches; but then he wanted the chief Bulwarks of a Sovereign Prince, for he was without the Affections of his Subjects, and had neither Reſolution or Courage to

ſupport

ſupport the Regal Dignity becoming a Monarch of *Britain*.———He took no Steps to gain the Good-will of his Subjects, but led on by the flattering Minions about him, fleeced them by every unconſtitutional Method, and made himſelf ſo obnoxious to the Generality of the People, that when the *Picts* and *Scots* threatned *Britain* with an Invaſion, he was afraid to truſt them with Arms, leſt they ſhould turn them againſt himſelf. Therefore he called together the States of the Kingdom, and had it propoſed to them to ſend for Aid out of *Germany*. When, very likely, it was inſinuated, that ſuch Forces would be of much leſs Expence than National Troops, and prevent the People from being taken off from their uſual Employments, by which they greatly improved the Lands, and increaſed the Riches of the Kingdom: Others might alſo pretend, that arming the *Britons* at that critical Juncture, would endanger the then happy Eſtabliſhment in the Houſe of *Vortigern*, for it was well known that many of the People bore great Affection to *Aurelius Ambroſius* and *Uther Pendragon*, two Brothers of the *Flavian* Family, who, upon the Elevation of King *Vortigern* to the Throne, were obliged to take Refuge in little *Brittany*; therefore if the *Britons* ſhould be then intruſted with Arms, they might poſſibly uſe them in favour of the firſt of thoſe Princes, who was a Pretender to the Crown, and founded his Claim on his being deſcended from the imperial and auguſt Houſe of *Conſtantine*: Another Sage of ſeemingly greater Gravity than the reſt, who had been many Years a Proficient in Court-craft, might poſſibly ſtand up, and, with a Calmneſs, and Reſervedneſs peculiar to him, ſay in a decretorial Way, That for his Part, he ſhould not be againſt arming the People, and enabling them to fight in their own Defence, but for the Service of God and the Salvation of Souls, which was of the higheſt Moment, and to be conſidered before all other Things in the World: Now, as the *Britons* in general were employed in ſome Sort of Buſineſs or other, they could not ſpare Time to learn the Uſe and Exerciſe of Arms, but in thoſe Hours ſet apart for religious Duties; therefore arming of them would, in all Probability, greatly obſtruct the due Service of the Almighty, and be a Means of ſending many hun-

dred

dred thouſand Souls into everlaſting Perdition; the very Thoughts of which muſt be ſhocking to all *pious* and *good* Chriſtians: As for the *Germans* propoſed, they were all Heathens, and not to be regarded any more than the Beaſts of the Field, and therefore the fitteſt for Blood and Slaughter.

Therefore by theſe, or ſome ſuch vague and fallacious Arguments, together with the Gold of *Vortigern*, were the Eyes of this Aſſembly ſo blinded, that they could not ſee that any bad Conſequences would, or could ariſe from the Employment of foreign Mercenaries; and therefore they voted for addreſſing their Sovereign, in which they deſired that he would be graciouſly pleaſed to ſend for the *Saxons* out of *Germany* to their Aſſiſtance; which brought upon the King and People, *and his Miniſters too*, all the Miſeries, that ever any poor Country was curſed with; their pretended Friends becoming their moſt implacable Enemies, carried Terror and *Germanic* Cruelty over all the Land. The fine Plains of *Britain* were too tempting, not to be Objects of Deſire to thoſe mercenary Hirelings, their Appetites were too keen not to be allured by ſo delicious a Morſel, and not being able to withſtand ſo great a Temptation, they took the firſt Opportunity of ſhaking off their Dependence on, and tyrannizing over their weak, unthinking and puſillanimous Maſters.

They would not be contented with the Stipend agreed on, but they muſt have the Country too, they came to defend, which they effected by the moſt horrid Barbarities the inhuman Monſters could invent, making the whole Kingdom a Field of Blood, and manuring its Vallies with the ſlaughter'd Carcaſes of the unhappy, poor, and wretched *Britons*.

Oh, my Countrymen! Surely ſuch Examples muſt awaken you, and put you upon your Guard, when you ſhall behold mercenary Foreigners introduced into your Native Land, and yourſelves forbid the Uſe of Arms.—Remember that the ſame Cauſes will always produce the ſame Effects, whatever modern Temporizers may ſay to the contrary, who, in all Probability, will be too late convinced of their own Folly, when they ſhall ſee themſelves diſappointed, in being deprived of a Share of the general

Plun-

Plunder and Ruin of their Country, as were the unhappy courtly *Britons*.

These are not the Inventions of a dissatisfied or distempered Brain, but taken from the Histories of those Times, particularly our ancient Historians *Gildas*, venerable *Bede*, and many others, as shall be hereafter shewn, whose Authorities have ever been esteemed by, and bore great Weight with our learned Countrymen.

Gildas, the ancient *British* Historian, lived in the fifth and sixth Centuries, and was an Eye-witness of the Miseries and wretched Condition of his Countrymen the *Britons*, which they brought upon themselves by foolishly advising their King *Vortigern*, to send for the *Saxons* out of *Germany* to defend them, as was pretended, from the Incursions of the *Picts* and *Scots*; but the Truth of the Matter was, as appears from the Course of History and natural Reason, to support a weak, venal, and wicked Administration, in Measures unconstitutional and destructive of the public Good.

A Writer of the last Age, says, "That a more convincing Witness cannot be found than our *British* Historian *Gildas*, who lived in that Age, and seems to have his Pen directed by God, on Purpose to write like a second *Jeremias* the Miseries of his Country, the heavy Judgments inflicted on it, and the more heavy Crimes which exacted from Heaven those Judgments." The whole Nation, generally, is by him acknowledged guilty of all Manner of Vices joined with extreme Ingratitude to God, "For whereas, saith he, after the Incursions of the *Picts* and *Scots*, there succeeded such Plenty of all Things, that no former Age could parallel. The *Britons* turned this Mercy into Wantonness, abounding more than ever in all Manner of Uncleanness and Luxury; which Filthiness was attended with a Hatred to Truth and the Professors of it." And to shew the universal Depravedness of the *British* Nation, and an utter Despair of Amendment, he farther charges the Ecclesiastics of those Times, to have been yet more corrupted than the Laity; and besides the sharp Invectives which he makes against them, in his Historical Discourse of the Destruction of *Britain*, which he especially imputes

putes to their Crimes, he compiled another Treatiſe purpoſely to reprove them, called the Correction of the Clergy, which begins thus, " *Britain* has Prieſts, but many " of them impudent; it has Clergymen, but great Numbers of them ravenous Oppreſſors, deceitful Paſtors, " called indeed Paſtors, but who are rather Wolves watchful to deſtroy the Souls of their Flock, having no Regard to the ſpiritual Good of the People, but ſeeking only to fill their own Bellies: They poſſeſs the Houſes of " the Church, but they come to them only for Lucre's " Sake: If they teach the People, yet by ill Example of " their vicious Lives, they render their Teaching fruitleſs; " they ſeldom approach the Altars, and more rarely with " pure Hearts: They have not the Confidence to reprove " the People for their Sins, being more guilty themſelves, " *&c.*" Such a Character *Gildas* gives of the Clergy in his Times, which he enlarges by an Addition, in his Rhetorical Way, of almoſt all Kinds of Vices, with which he charges them, particularly moſt horrible and open Simony, " Publickly purchaſing with Money eccleſiaſtical " Cures, and Biſhopricks, of the then ruling Tyrants, " which having done, they were notwithſtanding ordained " by other Biſhops; by which Means, Traytors, like " *Judas*, were placed in St. *Peter*'s Chair, and impure " Perſons like *Nicholas*, were Succeſſors of the holy " Martyr *Stephen*, *&c*,"

Thus doth *Gildas* expoſe to his own Age, and Poſterity likewiſe, for their Example, the depraved Condition of thoſe Times, which *Baronius* having recited, elegantly and juſtly adds theſe Words. " Hence we may perceive " and even with our Hands feel, the juſt and equal Judg" ment of God upon the Nation, why the Inhabitants " thereof, for their Crimes, were delivered over to the " Sword of barbarous Nations."

Many Hiſtorians accuſe the cowardly Sloth of King *Vortigern*, as if he, weary of the Exerciſes of War againſt the *Picts* and *Scots*, choſe rather with his Money to hire ſtipendiary Strangers, than to train up his own Subjects to reſiſt them, and therefore invited the *Saxons* into the Kingdom for that Purpoſe. But venerable *Bede* ſhews it was done by the common Conſent and Advice of the Nation,

Nation, at a Meeting of the States (but he has not recorded by whose wicked Council the States were convened to consult upon that Business, nor who was the time-serving Betrayer of his King and Country that made the Motion) saying, "(a) A Meeting was assembled in "which it was consulted, from whence they should seek "Assistance and Defence, for avoiding and repelling those "so frequent and cruel Incursions of the Northern Na-"tions into *Britain*. And, it was thought best by all, as "well as by King *Vortigern*, to demand Aid of the *Sax-"ons*, a Nation settled beyond the Sea. Which Resolu-"tion of theirs, was, doubtless, ordered by the divine Pro-"vidence, to the End that Mischief should come against "the impious *Britons*, as the succeeding Event did more "evidently declare."

Gildas therefore reflecting on the Consultation, thus exclaims, (b) "O the profound Blindness of the *Britons* "Minds! O the desperate Stupidity of their Senses! those "*Saxons* at whose Names they trembled, even when they "were absent, are now by the foolish Princes of *Zoan* in-"vited to live, as it were, in their own Houses; so sense-"less a Council they gave to their King *Pharaoh*." Whose coming over the same Patriot Historian thus angrily celebrates, recording withal a Prophecy concerning it among the *Saxons*. (c) "There," saith he, "A Drove "of *Whelps*, rushing out of a barbarous Lionness's Den, "came hither in three Ships with full Sails, and an o-"minous Course encouraged by a Prophecy, certainly "believed by them, that for the Space of Three Hun-"dred Years they should possess the Country; towards "which, they directed the Prows of their Ships, and that "half of that Time they should lay it in Waste. They "first fastned their terrible Nails, by Order of the un-"happy Tyrant (*Vortigern*) on the Eastern Part of the "Island, with a Pretence indeed to defend the Country, "but with an Intention really to subdue it."

From whence soever this Prophecy came there seems to be in it some Shadow of Truth, for the *Saxons* possessed the Land, under the Title of *Saxony beyond Sea*, Three hundred Years, one Half of which Time they often

(a) Bed. Lib. I. Cap. 14. (b) Gildas de Excid. (c) Ibid.

often laid it waſte, until the coming of St. *Auſtin* the Monk, by whom they were converted to the Faith of Chriſt, when they became more civilized, and, in ſome Meaſure, forbore their rude and barbarous Behaviour That they fixed their terrible Nails on the Eaſtern Part of the Iſland is certain, for they firſt landed on the Iſland of *Thanet* in the County of *Kent*, at a Place, ſaith *Ethelwerd*, anciently called *Hipwinesfleot*, and was afterwards named *Wipped-fleet*, from *Wipped* a *Saxon* Commander there ſlain.

The firſt Services they did to *Vortigern*, was the obtaining a great Victory over the *Picts* and *Scots*, at a Place called *Stanford* in *Lincolnſhire*, in the Year of our Lord 450. for which they immediately demanded a large Gratification in Land, in the ſame Province where the Battle was fought. Our Annals, ſaith *Camden* (*a*), relate, " That *Hengiſt* the *Saxon* having ſubdued the *Picts*, " beſides large Poſſeſſions conferred on him in other " Places, required *Vortigern*, to beſtow on him, in that " Province, ſo much Land as he could encompaſs with " an Oxe's Hide; which having obtained, he cut it into " Thongs extremely thin, with which he encompaſſed " a great Territory, in the Midſt of which he built a " Caſtle, which, by the Name, (for it is called, *Thong* " *Caſtle*,) perpetuates the Memory hereof." Which may put us in mind of the great Craftineſs and Subtilty of the *Saxon*, and the extreme Weakneſs of *Vortigern* and his profligate Miniſtry.

But the Ambition of the *Saxon* Chief was not ſatisfied with ſuch a Gift, his Intention was to maſter the whole Iſland, without Obligation to any, in order to the affecting of which Intention (*b*), being a ſubtile Man, ſaith *Matthew* of *Weſtminſter*, " He preſuming on the King's " Friendſhip and Eaſineſs, thus addreſſed himſelf to him. " My Lord the King, you ſee how your Enemies diſ- " quiet you on all Sides. If you pleaſe therefore we " will ſend into our Country, with Orders to increaſe " our Numbers with new Recruits. The King, ap- " proving the Deſign, commanded him to do ſo with- " out Delay, that ſo he might be freed from the Fear of " his

(*a*) CAMDEN in Corintem. (*b*) Florileg.

" his Enemies: Hereupon *Hengiſt* ſending Meſſengers " into *Germany*, they ſhortly returned, bringing with " them eighteen Ships loaded with Soldiers," which was in the Year of Chriſt 451.

It had been happy for *Briton*, if *Hengiſt* had been ſtrengthned by the Acceſſion of new Recruits only; but they brought with them a fair Lady, the Daughter of *Hengiſt*, whoſe Beauty and Flattery ſo inveigled King *Vortigern*, to pleaſe her, he betrayed both his Faith and Kingdom.

Malmsbury thus relates the Story (*a*), " We have re- " ceived from our Anceſtors," ſaith he, " that at the " ſecond Voyage of the *Saxons*, they conducted into " *Britain* a Virgin, the Daughter of *Hengiſt*, called " *Rowena*, for Beauty a Miracle of Nature, admired " by all that looked on her: *Hengiſt* commands a mag- " nificent Feaſt to be provided for his Soldiers newly ar- " rived, to which the King was invited. He gave Order " to his Daughter, likewiſe, to perform the Office of " Cup-bearer to the King, on Purpoſe that he might feed " his Eyes with her Beauty. Which Deſign had the Ef- " fect which *Hengiſt* deſired and expected. For the " King, naturally a Slave to Beauty, was preſently wound- " ed with the Gracefulneſs of the Maid's Looks, and " the Elegancy of her Geſtures, nouriſhing in his Mind a " Hope to enjoy her: So that, without any Delay, he de- " manded her of her Father for his Wife. *Hengiſt*, though " inwardly more willing to beſtow her, than the King was " to have her; yet made Shew of an Unwillingneſs, al- " ledging, that ſuch a Marriage was too mean for ſo great " a Prince. But at laſt, after much Importunity, he con- " deſcended; and for a Reward or Dowery to his Daugh- " ter, he received in Gift the whole Province of *Kent*." And this was ſuitable to the Practice of the *German* Nation obſerved by *Tacitus* (*b*); " Among whom, ſaith he, " it is the Cuſtom for the Husband to give a Portion or " Dowery to purchaſe his Wife, and not the Wife to the " Husband."

Other Hiſtorians add, that this Feaſt and Marriage was celebrated at *Thong Caſtle* in *Lincolnſhire*, and that the Virgin

(*a*) MALMS. de Reg. l. 1. c. 1. (*b*) TACIT. de Morib. GERMAN.

Virgin was inſtructed to drink a Health to *Vortigern* after the *German* Manner. However, certain it is, that beſides the infinite Damage to the Iſland by alienating ſo conſiderable a Member as *Kent*, and ſo convenient to the *Saxons*, for powering in new Forces, this Marriage was highly criminal, both, becauſe the King had already a lawful Wife living, and likewiſe, that being a Chriſtian, he joined himſelf to a *Pagan* Idolatreſs.

Hengiſt having thus proſtituted his Daughter to the King, who in Recompence proſtituted his Country to *Hengiſt*, the *Saxon* began to entertain Thoughts of immediately putting his Scheme in Execution, of making a compleat Conqueſt of *Britain*, as knowing the Nation in general greatly diſapproved their King's Marriage, for which, and many other Vices, their Affections and Duty towards him were greatly diminiſhed. Therefore he was determined to contrive an Occaſion of quarrelling, which the Archdeacon of *Huntingdon* thus deſcribes.

"(a) *Hengiſt*," ſaith he, "And his Army ſeeking Occaſion of War againſt the *Britons*, boldly required of "his Son-in-law King *Vortigern* to ſupply them more "plentifully with Proviſions: threatning that otherwiſe, "they would renounce the League between them, and "lay waſte the whole Iſland," (mark this my Countrymen) "which Threatnings were preſently attended with "diſmal Effects. For the *Saxons*, entering into a League "with the *Picts*, gathered an innumerable Army, which, "without any Reſiſtance, ſpoiled the whole Country."

Thus was the Nation brought into extreme Miſery, a Flame being every where kindled by the Hands of Pagans to conſume its Inhabitants.——A juſt Judgment of the Almighty upon them for their enormous Crimes, eſpecially, as they profeſſed themſelves to be the Believers and Servants of the True God.

However! bad as the People were, they could not bear with their Prince and his profligate Miniſters. The King's Marriage with an Infidel Lady, his Divorce from his lawful Queen, his Encouragement of Strangers, and his delivering up ſo great a Part of the Kingdom into their Hands, occaſioned great Diſcontents amongſt his Subjects, which they

(a) Huntingdon, l. 1.

they could not help ſhewing at all their Meetings both public and private; and at laſt, by common Conſent, Perſons were deputed to go to him and beſeech him to take Pity of his Country, now ready to ſink into Ruin: Or if he had no Care for his Subjects; yet that he would not neglect the Church of God, and his Faith, in Danger of being deſtroyed by Heathen Miſcreants. Which if it ſhould arrive by his Fault, and that the diabolical Worſhip of Idols ſhould prevail againſt God's True Religion, ſo horrid a Crime would be puniſhed both by his own and his Peoples eternal Miſery; which Remonſtrances having made little or no Impreſſion in the Mind of this ſenſual King; the Biſhops and others of the Clergy, thought proper, at laſt, to admoniſh him with great Earneſtneſs, which likewiſe having no Effect, his Subjects in general deſerted him, and the Nobility unanimouſly raiſed his Son VORTIMER to the Throne, ſaith *Florilegus* (*a*).

Vortimer was a Prince of Courage and Conduct, and a true Lover of his Native Country. He had long beheld the *Saxons* Tyranny and ambitious Deſigns with a moſt princely and high Reſentment.——He could no longer forbear taking Notice, that by Craft and Villany, they had almoſt ruined the Nation, and was determined, if poſſible, to drive them out of it. He had vehemently urged his Father to the ſame without Effect (*b*); and now having the Power in his own Hands, he immediately ſet about arraying his Subjects, and making them fit for War; at the ſame Time he invited home the exiled Princes to his Aſſiſtance, who readily accepted of the Invitation, and we find *Aurelius Ambroſius* bearing one of the principal Commands in *Vortimer*'s Army, that obtained that ſignal and glorious Victory over *Hengiſt* and *Horſa* at a Place called *Aleſford* on the Banks of the River *Medeway*; in which *Horſa* the *Saxon* Chief, and Brother to *Hengiſt*, was ſlain, and a great Slaughter made of the Officers and Soldiers inferior to him. The firſt Diviſion of the *Britiſh* Army was commanded by *Aurelius Ambroſius*, the ſecond by King *Vortimer*, and the third by his Brother *Catigern*, the Order and Succeſs of which Battle is particularly deſcribed by *Huntingdon* and other Writers (*c*).

Horſa

(*a*) Floril. A. D. 454. (*b*) Malmsbury de Reg. l. 1. c. 1.
(*c*) Huntingdon, l. 3.

Horſa being dead, the *Saxons* exalted *Hengiſt* to the Title of King of *Kent*, *Anno Dom.* 456; but he was ſo harraſſed and purſued by the *Britons* under the Direction and Command of the wiſe and valiant *Vortimer*, that he was obliged to retire into the Iſle of *Thanet* for the Security of himſelf and Followers; and being there frequently aſſaulted by the *Britiſh* Navy, he embarked for *Germany* to ſolicit more Succours, to enable him to make Head againſt the Valour and Experience of King *Vortimer*; which glorious Prince, to the irreparable Loſs of his Country, during the Abſence of the *Saxon* Chief, fell a Victim to Revenge and Malice, by the helliſh Contrivance of his *Pagan* Step-mother *Rowena*, Daughter of *Hengiſt* and Wife of *Vortigern*.

This *German* Lady, being inſtructed, no doubt of it, by her Father, before he left the Kingdom, procured Poiſon to be given him by one of his Servants, which he having drank, and perceiving Death approaching, he divided his Treaſures amongſt his victorious Soldiers, earneſtly exhorting them to fight couragiouſly for their Country, and withal ordered a Pyramid of Braſs with his Statue thereon, to be placed in the Haven where the *Saxons* uſually landed, in Hopes that even the Effigy of a Prince ſo much dreaded whilſt living, might ſtrike Terror into the invading Enemies, and fright them back into their own Country. He was buried in the City of *London*, and with him, ſaith *Huntingdon*, the Flower and Glory of the *Britiſh* Nation.

Thus, by the Treachery of this *German* Proſtitute, fell the great, the glorious and virtuous King *Vortimer*, in whom was fixed the chief Hopes of his Country; and had Almighty God been pleaſed to have ſpared his Life a little longer, he might have recovered a ſinking Nation, and have prevented thoſe unſpeakable Calamities which afterwards befel it. For the ſame Year that he was murdered, *Hengiſt* returned out of *Germany* with greater Forces than before, and, regardleſs of the dead King's Statue, landed his Troops, and took a firm Poſſeſſion of his new Kingdom of *Kent*, fixed his Reſidence at *Canterbury*, and there built a magnificent Palace. Soon after which the *Britons*, endeavouring to make Head againſt him,

him, were overthrown at a Place called *Creganford*, where a grievous Slaughter was made of them by the *Saxons*, who, cleaving them down with their Battle Axes, ſtruck ſuch Terror into thoſe remaining, that they fled from the Field of Battle with the utmoſt Confuſion, never ſtopping till they got to *London*; and left *Hengieſt* in the quiet Poſſeſſion of his new erected Kingdom, and at full Liberty to glut himſelf in the Exerciſe of all thoſe Cruelties, to which he had an innate Propenſity; as well as the Rectitude of them eſtabliſhed in his Mind by a *Pagan* and *German* Education.

Ancient *Gildas* informs us, "That great Numbers of "Biſhops and Prieſts were maſſacred by that *Saxon* King." And venerable *Bede* records, "That the impious King, "after his Victory, (Almighty God the juſt Judge ſo "diſpoſing) laid waſte the Cities and Provinces adjoining, "and without any Reſiſtance continued the Flame from "the Eaſtern to the Weſtern Sea, covering the whole "Surface of the miſerable Iſland with Ruin. Both pu-"blick and private Buildings were demoliſhed, and every "where the Prelates of the Church, together with the "People, without any Regard to their Dignity," or (as ſome Authors ſay) Sex, "were conſumed with Sword "and Fire: Neither were there any, who took Care to "bury the Bodies after they were ſo inhumanely ſlain."

We find, that, upon the Death of King *Vortimer* his Father *Vortigern* re-aſcended the Throne of *Britain*, and the Year of our Lord 461 is remarkable for an Act of the moſt horrid and perfidious Cruelty done by *Hengiſt*, that ever was invented by the Devil or any of his tyrannical Agents upon Earth. *Hengiſt* being reſolved, by any Means, to enlarge his Bounds in *Britain*, and finding that by Exerciſe of War, the *Britons* Courage encreaſed, the wiley *German* turned his Thoughts to invent ſome Stratagem, by which, without any Hazard, he might effect his Purpoſe. To this End, inſinuating himſelf into the Minds of *Vortigern* and the Nobility of his Court, as if he were deſirous of Peace and Friendſhip, which if they would grant, he would turn his Arms againſt the *Picts* and *Scots*, and drive them quite out of the Kingdom; he quickly obtained Belief from the eaſy Nature of *Vortigern*, and his

more

more eaſy Miniſters, that his Intentions were ſincere. Upon which a Conference was agreed on between the *Britons* and *Saxons*; with this Caution, that each King ſhould be attended with only Three Hundred Men, and thoſe unarmed. The Place appointed for this Meeting was on a Plain near *Old Sarum*, where the *Saxon* ordered a great Feaſt to be prepared for the *Britons*, after having mutually ratified the Articles of Agreement by Oaths and Promiſes. But towards the End of the Feaſt, when the *Britons* were diſſolved in Wine, *Hengiſt*, on a ſudden called aloud to *Arms*, which was the watch Word agreed on among the *Saxons*. Whereupon they immediately drew out ſhort Swords which they had concealed under their Cloaths, and quickly ſlew their unarmed Gueſts, the poor, eaſy, beguiled *Britons*. Upon which Account, *Cambden* ſaith, that *Ambroſius*, or his Brother *Uther Pendragon*, erected that famous Monument on *Salisbury* Plain, vulgarly called *Stonhenge*, which ſtands there at this Time as an everlaſting Memorial of *German* Treachery, Perfidy and inhuman Cruelty.

During this Slaughter the *Saxons* took King *Vortigern* Priſoner, reſerving him to convey a Title to them of what they had before obtained by open Violence and Breach of Faith; for the Year following, ſaith *Matthew* of *Weſtminſter*, "They bound him in Chains, threatning him "with Death, and for his Life required of him to deliver "up ſeveral of his Cities and Munitions: He quickly "granted whatſoever they demanded, ſo he might eſcape "with his Life. This being confirmed by Oath, they "gave him his Liberty: And firſt of all they ſeized on "the City of *London*: Then *York*, *Lincoln* and *Wincheſter*; all which Provinces they waſted, killing the miſerable *Britons* like Sheep. They deſtroyed to the "Ground all Churches and Buildings belonging to eccleſiaſtical Perſons: They killed the Prieſts near the Altars: They burnt with Fire all Books of Holy Scripture, and heaped Earth on the Sepulchres of Martyrs, "Such religious Men as could eſcape their Fury repaired "to Deſarts, Woods and Rocks. *Vortigern* therefore "ſeeing ſo horrible Deſtruction, retired into a Part of "*Wales* and incloſed himſelf in a Town called *Genori-*

"*um.*"

" *um.*" Whilſt he ingloriouſly lurked there, and among the ſteep inacceſſable Mountains of the Country, buſy in building a Caſtle for his greater Security, the middle Provinces of *Britain*, without any Defender, were left to the Fury of the *Saxons*.

The Caſtle built by *Vortigern* was, after the Name of the Town, called *Genorium*, and afterwards *Caer-Guortigern*. " It is placed," ſaith *Camden*, (*a*) " In a vaſt " Solitude, fearful for the Horror of Mountains, and " the narrow Turnings of the Paſſages to it. To that " Place *Vortigern*, the Plague of his Country, withdrew " himſelf to ſeek a Refuge for his Perſon. And there," ſaith *Richard White*, " He ſpent his Time in conſulting " *Sooth-ſayers*, eſpecially the Magician *Merlin*."

Hereupon the *Britons* being deſerted by their King, were compelled to ſeek one abroad. " And therefore," " ſaith *Matthew* of *Weſtminſter* (*b*), they directed Meſ- " ſengers into leſſer *Brittany* beyond Sea to *Aurelius Am-* " *broſius* and his Brother *Uthera-Pendragon*, who for fear " of *Vortegern* were retired thither, beſeeching them with " all Speed to quit that Country, and repair into their " own, to the End, that expelling both the *Saxons* and " their hated King *Vortigern*, they might receive the " Crown of *Britain*. They therefore being now of ripe " Age, proſecuted their Journey, attended with Ships " and armed Soldiers."

Concerning this *Ambroſius* and his Extraction, *Gildas*, and from him *Bede*, ſpeak briefly in general Terms.

" Tha the was a modeſt Prince, and who alone, of the " *Roman* Race, had remained alive after ſo great a Tem- " peſt of Wars and Changes, in which his Parents who " had wore the Royal Purple were ſlain." " That he " was born and bred in *Britain*," ſaith another, " ſeems " to appear, becauſe as ſeveral Writers affirm, in the " Competition for the Crown, when *Vortigern* was cho- " ſen, *Ambroſius* being a Pretender, was compelled to " quite both his Right and Country, and to retire himſelf " into leſſer *Brittany*. From whence, notwithſtanding, " during the Reign of the generous King *Vortimer*, he " returned and aſſiſted him couragiouſly againſt the *Sax-*

(*a*) CAMDEN in Radnor. (*b*) Florileg. A. D. 464.

" *ons*, as hath been related; and it seems after that " Prince's Death, he returned again to his former Refuge. " The Return of these two Princes was more formidable " to *Vortigern* than any thing he could apprehend from the " *Saxons*, he therefore fortified himself more carefully " in a Castle."

Soon after the Arrival of *Aurelius Ambrosius*, both the *Britons* and *Saxons* mustered all their Forces, and came to a most bloody Battle near the ancient Port of *Roch-borrow*, in which the *Britons* were worsted; but it cost the *Saxons* so dear, that they thought proper to keep within their Bounds for some Time; which gave *Ambrosius* an Opportunity of turning his Arms towards the principal Author of all the Miseries of *Britain* the unhappy *Vortigern*. Therefore he marched to the Castle of *Geniorum*, which he besieged, but found it so strongly fortified, that it was impossible to reduce it by the common Method of War; at last by Fire, whether cast by *Ambrosius*, or coming from Heaven, is uncertain, both the King and his Castle were consumed, so as his Body never appeared, saith *Huntingdon*

This miserably fell the unhappy King *Vortigern*, who brought upon himself and Kingdom so many Evils, that no Age or Country could ever parallel, by giving Way to the Councils of wicked and designing Ministers, to send for Aid from abroad to assist him in his Wars at home; by which unconstitutional Advice, himself, his Posterity, his Ministers, and the whole Country, were utterly ruined and undone.

As for *Ambrosius*, the regal Authority was deservedly conferred upon him, not after a tumultary Manner, or by the factious Suffrages of the Army; but by an unanimous Election of the Clergy, Nobility and Commons of the Realm: " For which Purpose, saith Sir *H. Spleman*, " a Council or Assembly was called in *Cambria*, about " the Mountains of *Erir*, in the Province of the *Ordovices*, " or *North-Wales*, in which he was exalted to the regal " Dignity." This, he says, was done in the Year of our Lord 465, following the Account of *Matthew* of *Westminister*.

Thus

Thus my Countrymen and fellow Subjects; I have faithfully, and as briefly, as I well could, ſet before you from the beſt Authorities, the fatal Conſequences attending that monſtrous Reſolution of the ancient Inhabitants of this Iſland, of ſending into *Germany* to hire mercenary Troops to defend them againſt an invading Enemy.——— The Conſequences I have ſhewn to be no leſs than the Loſs of an incredible Number of their Lives——Their Wives——Their Sons and Daughters——All the Youth of *Britain* falling Sacrifices to *Germanic* Rage and Perfidy.——Their God blaſphemed——Their Religion and the Saviour of the World made the Scoff of Thouſands. ——Their Churches and all holy Things profaned, and tore to Pieces.——The Blood of their Prieſts ſhed upon thoſe Altars, where " the Body and Blood of Chriſt had " had been verily and indeed taken and received by the " Faithful in the Lord's Supper," and, in ſhort, the whole Kingdom became the Prey of thoſe baſe, faithleſs, mercileſs, perfidious, mercenary hireling Servants and Soldiers.

Good God! What a terrible Change was here? From the Enjoyment of Eaſe, Peace and Plenty, to be drove like Sheep to the Slaughter, by *Saxon* Dogs, and maſſacred by Thouſands.——Oh miſerable! to have heard the Cries of the tender Mother for her ſlaughtered Children, and the poor Innocents bewailing the Loſs of their ſupporting Parents, ——to have beheld their beſeeching Tears and humble Poſtures, and at the ſame Time to have obſerved no Signs of Compaſſion or Humanity in the butchering Monſters, muſt have melted a Heart, harder than the hardeſt Flints in *Britain*. Theſe *Germans* in *Britiſh* Pay——theſe back Friends, become Ten Thouſand Times more terrible to the *Britons* their Pay-maſters, than the *Picts* and *Scots* their common Enemies. ——— The laſt, like a common Enemy, fought for Conqueſt, and perhaps to recover ſome Part of that Country from which their Anceſtors were drove by the *Romans*; but the *Germans* fought with a fixed Reſolution of annihilating the whole Race of the *Britons*; and thereby to make Room for their indigent Countrymen to come and ſettle in the fertile Soil of *Britain*; the Fame of which, and its moſt delightful Proſpects

ſpects, had been long trumpeted and ſung throughout all the barren Regions of *Germany*.

Therefore *Britons!* let this Example be a Warning to ye, never to conſent to the Admiſſion of foreign Mercenaries into the Bowels of your Kingdom, and as Luxury, Licentiouſneſs, and every Species of Vice, were the original Occaſion of all thoſe Evils which befel the ancient *Britons*; let us lay ourſelves down before the Mercy Seat of Heaven, and implore the Divine Goodneſs to forgive all our paſt Enormities, that we may become new Creatures, and by putting away all the gaudy Trappings of Luxury and Licentiouſneſs, we may be cloathed with an honeſt Frugality, Virtue and Temperance, and thereby riſe beyond the Reach of all the Powers of Darkneſs, and the corrupting Hands of the Time-ſerving Sycophants of the Age. Next, let us beſeech our moſt gracious Sovereign, and the great Council of the Nation, his two Houſes of Parliament, to ſuffer us to train up ourſelves, and our Children, in the Uſe and Exerciſe of Arms, that we may be able to defend his moſt ſacred Perſon and Government, our Lives and Properties, againſt all foreign Invaders of our Country, or domeſtick Diſturbers of the public Peace and Tranquillity. Let us call aloud for Juſtice upon all Betrayers of their King and Country, and for a ſtrict Enquiry into the Occaſion of the Loſs of one of the brighteſt Jewels in the *Britiſh* Diadem; and that no Power be able to protect the Guilty, nor no Skreen be ſuffered to hide him from the Eye of Juſtice; that the Diſpoſition of the public Treaſure be an Object of Enquiry, and why the very large Supplies given by Parliament have not been productive of thoſe ſalutary and honourable Effects expected by the Nation, and whether the Application of ſuch Supplies has been made agreeable to the Intention of giving them; and above all, when once the *Cauſe* of the many Evils which have befel the Nation is diſcovered, be ſure that Care is taken to have it removed. Meaſures muſt be changed as well as Men, otherwiſe the Effects, notwithſtanding all your Pains, will be the ſame.

Oh my dear Country! let me beſeech you *Britons!* let me earneſtly intreat you to conſider well the Things I have laid

laid before you, and let them ſink deep into your Minds. ——Conſider well the great Danger and Hazard there may be in having foreign Armies in the Heart of our Kingdom, and by all conſtitutional Means endeavour to avoid that Rock on which the Nation has been before ſhipwrecked. ——And as I ſaid before, firſt make your Peace with the Almighty Diſpoſer of all Things in Heaven and in Earth, and beg for divine Aſſiſtance in this your Day of great Trouble and Danger.——Addreſs your King, and petition your Parliament, which you have a Right to do by the Conſtitution; from whom you have all the Reaſon in the World to expect, and be immediately releaſed from the dreadful Apprehenſions ariſing from foreign Mercenaries, who have no Connexion with you as a People, and being bred up in the Principles of abſolute Power, will readily trample on the Neck of Liberty, regardleſs of your Laws, Rights and Privileges, of which they can form no Manner of Idea, being taught, from their Youth up, to anſwer the Whip, they know no Law but the Will of their Superiors, and are ſure to obey whatever they are pleaſed to command. It may be ſaid, and with Truth, for what I know, that mercenary Foreigners live very quietly in their Encampments without giving Offence to any Body: What then? Pray, what Security have you that they ſhan't enter your Houſes, raviſh your Wives, deflower your Daughters and eat up your Property? It is not that I am free, becauſe I have not the Dragoon in my Houſe; no, it is becauſe I have it in my Power to keep him out; otherwiſe our boaſted Freedom is at an End, and Liberty may be ſaid to have taken her Leave of this fair Iſland, where ſhe has ſo many Years reſided, the Envy and Admiration of all the Nations in the World. But for God's Sake let us not part with her ſo eaſily.——Let us heartily ſtruggle in her Defence, by a ſteady Perſeverance and Attachment to her glorious Cauſe, in Imitation of our brave Anceſtors;——we may yet preſerve her, and prevent her Altars from being profaned by thoſe Sons of *Belial*, the Abettors of deſpotic Rule and abſolute Power.——The Want of Spirit is the worſt Symptom of a ſinking State, therefore let me beſeech you for your own Sakes——for

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the Sake of your Wives and Children, and the whole Kingdom——to awake, to rouze yourſelves from that lethargic Diſpoſition into which you at preſent ſeem to be fallen, that you may be truly ſenſible of your Danger, and then let every Faculty be exerted to oppoſe impending Ruin, that you may have the Honour of preſerving the Conſtitution of *Britain*, and immortalize your Memories by tranſmitting your Birthrights intire, which are the Laws, Rights and Privileges of *Engliſhmen*, through many Generations down to all Poſterity.

FINIS.

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